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MARCH MEETING.

The Society held its stated monthly meeting on Thursday, March 10, at noon, at their rooms in Tremont Street, Boston; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the American Baptist Missionary Union; the American Unitarian Association; the Boston City Missionary Society; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the County Commissioners of Barnstable County; C. C. Henshaw, Esq.; Thomas J. Herring, Esq.; Henry B. Dawson, Esq.; Hon. J. H. Hammond; L. A. H. Latour, Esq.; Mrs. I. F. Baldwin; Rev. J. P. Robinson; Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan; Rev. W. S. Perry; Colonel T. B. Lawrence; N. P. Kemp, Esq.; George H. Kuhn, Esq.; Samuel A. Green, M.D.; F. A. Benson, Esq.; and from Messrs. Bartlet, Bell, Lamson, Robbins, Shurtleff, Sibley, Webb, Whitney, and Winthrop, of the Society.

In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, the President read letters of acceptance from Hon. Caleb Cushing and Hon. George T. Bigelow, as Resident Members; and from B. R. Winthrop, Esq., as Corresponding Member.

The President presented, on behalf of the publishers, a copy of Colton's "Cabinet Atlas."

A special recognition of their valuable donation was voted to the publishers.

The President read several acknowledgments, from societies and individuals, of their reception of the Proceedings of the Society in respect to the memory of William H. Prescott. The letter from Professor B. Silliman was ordered to be entered upon the Records. It is as follows; viz., —

NEW HAVEN, March 8, 1859.

To the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,

President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

DEAR SIR, — I have received a very interesting document, "The Proceedings of the Society on the Occasion of the Death of Mr. Prescott," the distinguished historian. As the pamphlet is inscribed to me "by the Society," — of which I have had the honor to be a Corresponding Member since 1808 (fifty years ago), elected under the Presidency of my revered friend Judge Davis, — and as I do not observe any other official name in the present instance than your own, I take the liberty to make my acknowledgments to you, and, through you, to the Society.

I have never perused any commemorative memorial with deeper interest and greater satisfaction.

The affectionate tribute rendered to the memory of the illustrious historian by so many eminent men — his friends and contemporaries — does equal honor to him and to them. Rarely in any city, certainly not in our country, can such a galaxy be found.

My own interest in these solemnities is increased by a personal knowledge of nearly all the speakers; and, still more, by grateful recollections of the historian himself in his paternal mansion, and in that sacred apartment where we may presume that his emancipated spirit hovered over his lifeless form, in full sympathy with mourning survivors, and with the noble historians whose learned volumes were grouped around as a guard of honor.

On any proper occasion, I beg leave, through you, dear sir, to present to the Society the expression of my respectful sympathy, and my thanks for their recollection of, dear sir, yours very respectfully and truly,

B. SILLIMAN.

Professor HENRY W. TORREY was elected a Resident Member, Hon. EDWARD COLES of Philadelphia an Honorary, and J. CARSON BREVOORT, Esq., of New York, a Corresponding Member of the Society.

The President nominated Messrs. Solomon Lincoln, Blagden, and Livermore, a Committee to nominate a list of officers at the annual meeting. He also nominated, as a Committee on the Treasurer's accounts, Messrs. Bowditch, William Appleton, and Sturgis.

The President was requested to return the respectful acknowledgments of the Society to the New-York Historical Society for the donation of one hundred copies of their "Proceedings on the Announcement of the Death of William H. Prescott."

The thanks of the Society were voted to Charles L. Hancock, Esq., for the valuable and interesting volumes presented by him to the library from the estate of his patriotic ancestor, John Hancock.

Dr. WEBB communicated an anonymous letter dated London, March 4, 1775; which led to an interesting discussion and various suggestions regarding its authorship.

On presenting it, Dr. Webb remarked, that it was probably transmitted in the manner alluded to in the opening paragraph; and, as Mr. Quincy did not live to reach home, — having died on board ship, whilst

upon his return voyage, in the harbor of Gloucester, April 25, 1775, — it was very likely that the letter was subsequently found among his effects. Being devoid of address as well as signature, he thought that possibly some memorandum referring to its origin or destination was made by Mr. Quincy, and could be found in his diary, or note-book. He therefore suggested that the letter be intrusted to the son of the deceased, — the present venerable Josiah Quincy, sen., — in the hope that he might be enabled to identify the chirography, or, in some way, ascertain its authorship.

MY DEAR FRIEND, — Our friend Mr. Quincy gives me an opportunity of writing to you, with a confidence of its reaching you. I have purposely omitted putting my name to my [letter]. Letters which ministerial people can reach are opened; and, if my name were seen, it would be a reason for suppressing it, independent of its contents. Besides, I am satisfied they are endeavoring to collect evidence against all those whom they regard as active friends to America.

I wrote to you upon my travels from Leghorn, and informed you of the plan which has since been put in execution. The stopping the fishery was a part of that plan. What is yet to come, I can with confidence assure you, is as follows: —

A Major Skeen, and a Parson Vardell, a native of New York, are to be sent over thither with propositions of advantages for the college, the city, and the Province, and with a list of profitable places for individuals, sufficient, as they conceive, — with the favorable disposition which they are persuaded prevails there, — to draw off that city from the common cause, and attach them to government. They are determined to spare no promises and temporary *douceurs* to effect their purpose. Four regiments of the troops now destined for America are

to be sent thither; the plan of making that the rendezvous for the whole army being so far altered. New England they are determined to subdue by arms, and subjugate to an arbitrary government, agreeably to the Massachusetts-Charter Act. The Province of Maine is to be erected into a separate government. A bishop is to be appointed at New York. This is the plan for the North. The Southern Colonies they reserve for future correction; trusting that the intervention of New York will so cut off the communication, that no assistance will be attempted, and they will have leisure, after the conquest of the North, to reduce the South to the same subjection.

Such is their present plan and prospect. Should they not succeed with New York, the whole will be deranged and defeated. Your utmost attention should be therefore applied to preserve that Province firm. If the people can be roused, so as to reject the Delancee party at the ensuing election, it will confound and frustrate all their schemes. To defeat the operation of the non-importation, they mean to encourage individuals, both here and with you, to ship and order goods; which, whether they are deceived or not, will serve to keep the manufacturers quiet here. But this is a temporary expedient; and you may be most assured that the faithful observation of the resolutions of the Congress for one year will produce most intolerable distress and dangerous insurrections, both here and in Ireland.

The last place is greatly attached to America; and, if it be prudent to relax the non-importation with them, it will make them hazard a great deal for us. If no relaxation can be made, a popular address to them will turn the tide of their resentment, upon the hardships they must feel, against its proper objects, — our oppressors. The consequence of this will be, at least, the obliging them to keep the whole establishment of troops in Ireland, and perhaps to send for those from America to join them. This is an object, I think,

highly worthy your attention. . . . I congratulate you on the junction of Jamaica. That island is of vast weight here. The deciding manner in which they have taken up the dispute gives, therefore, great alarm.

It is much agitated here, whether you ought to attack General Gage before he is re-enforced. My opinion is, that you ought not to take any steps of such decision and important consequences, without a moral certainty of success, and the approbation of the General Congress. When he is re-enforced, it will not avail them, unless he march into the country; and, in that case, it will be more easy to cope with him treble-numbered, than now in his intrenchments, under the cannon of the ships. As far, therefore, as one can judge at this distance, the attempt, in his present innocent situation, will not be prudent. I have only to add, that it is impossible any thing can increase the rancor and enmity that prevails against you here among the king's friends and his ministers. You are, therefore, to consider your present struggles as of so desperate a temper, that you are neither to expect nor give quarter. Whatever blow is struck, should, from its magnitude and violence, be worthy of the dignity and desperation of your cause. Temporary endurance must insure permanent prosperity. Prudence and resolution cannot fail of full success.

LONDON, March 4, 1775.

The following letter from Robert Walsh, Esq., to Mr. Everett, was read by the President:—

PARIS, 12th November, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR, — It is so long since we have held any intercourse, that I may have fallen out of your memory; but you will allow me to re-instate myself, asking your attention to a few lines. All your public experiences have engaged my attention. What you have allowed to go into print has

uniformly afforded me the highest satisfaction. Some impatience may be felt here that you have confined your oration on Washington to manuscript. We readily credit all the praise which it has won, and are thus more sensible of the privation. You might, methinks, transmit hither a copy to my address; having from me solemn assurance that it should not be printed, nor circulated in any form, nor read by any one out of my study. Every precaution should be taken against mischance, or any other final disposition than that which yourself might direct. When a pupil, at about twelve years of age, at the College of Georgetown, I delivered an address in verse to Washington, in person, in the old edifice.

I enjoyed opportunities of observing him closely afterwards, in company with the President of the College; and, on his death, I recited, in the pulpit of the Georgetown Catholic Church, the eulogy which was written by the Professor of Rhetoric. My remembrance of his person, demeanor, talk, opinions, is perfectly fresh. I had then studied the annals of the Revolutionary War, and of his administration of the General Government.

My particular purpose in venturing to address you now is to conciliate your interest with reference to two personages of this capital, whose names are familiar to you, and who may have possessed the advantage of your direct acquaintance. They are the venerable M. Jomard and Baron Charles Dupin. The former enjoyed, for thirty years, a spacious apartment in the edifice of the Imperial Library. He presided over the division of charts, maps, engravings, ancient documents, paleography in general. He is Honorary President of the Geographical Society, after having filled the chair during many years. He is one of the two surviving members of the Institute of Cairo of Napoleon I. He is a member of two branches of the Institute of France,—the Academy of Sciences, and that of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres. The Imperial Li-

brary, as you probably know, has been re-organized. He has been appointed Vice-President of the new Board of Directors, with the Minister of Public Instruction. Though nearly eighty years of age, he is vigorous in body, and indefatigable in his scientific pursuits.

Baron Dupin was a distinguished member of the Chamber of Deputies, and other of the Peers, under the monarchy of Louis Philippe. At one time, he was called to the Ministry of Marine. He holds seats in the Academy of Sciences, and that of the Moral and Political Sciences. No member of either body is more useful. He was at the head of the French Commission for the London Universal Exhibition. He is eminent in mathematics, and without a rival in statistics. Not long since, he prepared and published, at the instance of the Imperial Government, two octavos, entitled "The Productive Force of Nations from 1800 to 1851," as an Introduction to the Reports of the French Commission. The progress and resources of the United States have their full share of his pages and of his favor.

The two *savans* — Jomard and Dupin — are the Frenchmen whom I have found, throughout twenty-two years of constant intercourse, the most friendly and serviceable to our institutions and national character, and to individuals. They have uniformly exerted themselves when American science, literature, or invention, was to be introduced and recommended to the learned bodies and to the French public. As far as I know, neither has received any token of honor and acknowledgment from an American university or society. Each has all claims to the degree of Doctor of Laws, or to some manifestation of American esteem.

Your influence must be wide and potent; your spirit is congenial. It may be in your power, and a pleasure for you, to accomplish what I have ventured to suggest. M. Jomard entertains a special reverence for Washington. He has collected portraits and relics, and reads eagerly every new

publication relating to the hero. Last year, an advertisement of the wood of a tree which had hung over the grave at Mount Vernon was inserted in the "National Intelligencer." I addressed myself to Lieutenant Maury, in order to procure what would make a cane for M. Jomard. I offered to pay the expense of a head of California gold. But no answer was given. Such a present would be deemed inestimable by the aged servant, whose heart may be said to lie in the New World. He and Baron Dupin are entirely strangers to what I write.

I trust that Professor Felton will send us copies of his paper on the ancient Greek tablet which he found in Dr. Abbott's Egyptian museum. His communication to the "Athens Journal" of the 5th July was placed by me in the hands of the accomplished Hellenists, De Presle and D'Hivrey, who greatly admire his modern Greek and his patriotic zeal.

Pardon this scrawl; and be pleased to accept the liveliest respect and constant devotion of your old correspondent,

ROBERT WALSH.

Hon. EDWARD EVERETT.

Mr. DEANE deposited in the library of the Society a volume of Winslow Papers from 1638 to 1759, belonging to Mr. Isaac P. Winslow, and subject to his order.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 14, 1859.

The Society held their annual meeting this day (Thursday), the 14th of April, in their rooms in Tremont Street, at twelve o'clock, noon; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.